

Festival of the Three Kings Thank You

Yesterday, our church was filled with a spirit of generosity and joy as our Festival of Three Kings families were greeted by the smiling faces of dozens of Highlands members who made the day possible. THANK YOU to all who sponsored a child; led activities; shared a snack; held a hand; carried a gift bag to a car; swept the floor; welcomed a cold, tired mom at the door; said a prayer; and so much more. All those pieces made for a beautiful whole. Please continue to remember our Festival families during the holiday season.

Holiday Homebound Connection

Visit the table in the Greeting Space today to pick up a contact information card for one of our homebound members and send them a greeting card or note this holiday season. Thank you for helping to spread the love of Christ to our homebound members this Advent season.

Youth Group Christmas Party - Today

All youth are invited to a Christmas party today from 4 to 6 PM at the home of Jim and Romona Shannon. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit) for gift exchange games.

Contact: Henry Gibson henry@highlandsumc.net

Holiday Hygiene Drive - Through December 18

This holiday season, Highlands is partnering with the Jefferson County Memorial Project in a Hygiene Drive for Donaldson Correctional Facility. The men incarcerated there are allowed a limited quantity when ordering these products, and often pay greatly inflated prices. Acceptable items include: *shampoo, conditioner, body soaps/gels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, alcohol-free mouth wash, deodorant, lotion, peppermints/hard candies, legal pads and notebooks (no spiral bound), pocket planners, and socks.* A collection bin is located across from the elevator on the first floor of the Greeting Space. Learn more about the Jefferson County Memorial Project at www.jeffersoncountymemorial.com/blog.

Community Ministries Christmas Needs

Christmas can be a hard time for some. Many of our Community Ministries friends have lost or are separated from their families and feel that loss especially during the holidays. As we celebrate the season, let us also remember.

This Christmas season, Community Ministries needs one-size-fits-all gloves and hats in dark colors and fleece blankets to give away at Christmas Day breakfast. These items can be found at very affordable prices at CVS, Dollar General, Walmart, Walgreens, etc. Donations can be dropped off in Deb Welsh's office. Financial contributions are also welcome. We will also need breakfast casseroles and fresh, whole fruit for Christmas Day breakfast.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals - Dec. 18 & 21

Rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Pageant main roles is Wednesday, December 18 at 5:30 PM. Children playing the Angel Gabriel, Gabriel's Angels, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Inn Keeper, Magi, Star Bearer, Tiger, Camel, and Elephant are asked to attend. Dress rehearsal for ALL participating children is Saturday, December 21, 9:30-11:00 AM.

Volunteers are also needed to help chaperone during the pageant. We are especially looking for volunteers who are not parents or grandparents so that families of children in the pageant may sit in the congregation.

Contact: Mary Elizabeth Neal maryelizabeth@highlandsumc.net

Open Table Christmas Party - December 19

The Open Table Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 13 at 6:00 PM at the home of Dave and Leslie Davis. Bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert to share!

Contact: Leslie Davis lesliejeffdavis@gmail.com

Christmas Service Opportunity - December 21

The Highlands Men's Group will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 21 in one-hour shifts from 10 AM to 8 PM. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together this Christmas season.

Contact: Mark Chambers mark205@yahoo.com

All Is Calm Contemplative Worship - December 22

The Christmas season is a joyful and magical time of the year, and yet... Join us in the Sanctuary on the winter solstice, Sunday, December 22 for All Is Calm, a service of contemplative prayer for the longest night. The service will begin at 5 PM. The Chapel will be open for one hour following the service for prayer and meditation. All Are Welcome.

More information: www.highlandsumc.net/advent

Discovery Weekend Youth Retreat

Discovery Weekend, our annual youth spiritual formation retreat, will be January 24-26, 2020 at Camp Sumatanga. The cost of the weekend is \$100, which includes lodging, meals, and transportation. Registration is open through Sunday, December 29 at www.highlandsumc.net/discovery

Lectionary Bible Study - Wednesdays

Are you looking for an opportunity to discuss the scriptures used in worship? Each week through Pentecost, we will host a lectionary study on Wednesdays at 12:30 PM. This study will serve as an opportunity to converse around the scriptures for each week as they relate to, not only the Christian Calendar, but also our individual and communal lives more broadly. All are welcome and you can even bring your lunch.

Contact: Henry Gibson at henry@highlandsumc.net

KEEP IN PRAYER...

Britton Buckner	Marie Jeff	Pat Smith	Lisa, sister of Angela Chramer
Mary Jean Box	Ross Mason	Carol Stephens	Jack DeWitt, father of Kate Darden
Mary Frances Cofield	Judy Mills	Abby Thompson	Mark Carleton, brother of Lynn Hairston
James Daniels	Brook Morris	Kathleen & Tommy Thompson	Sharon Self, mother of Michelle Jones
Don Delashaw	Frances Owens	Sharon Turner	Judy Trench, mother of Bart Trench
Sonny Holt	Christian Riley	Chuck Tyndal	The United Methodist Church
Pamela & Paul Huck	Nancy Sawyer	Gene Wahnefried	

OUR SYMPATHY... Scott, Anne Mitchell, and Lillie Corinne Welch in the death of Scott's mother, Billie Manning

Contact information for those on this list is available from Deb Welsh at deb@highlandsumc.net or 205-933-8751, ext. 211

#BecauseOfHighlands

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to support our ministries in 2020!
We currently have received 101 pledges totalling \$664,416.

If you have not yet made your pledge for 2020, please consider doing so this week.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and Greeting Space.

Pledge cards may be left in the offering plate, returned to the church office, or completed online.

www.highlandsumc.net/pledge

If you would like to meet with Rev. Mikah Hudson to discuss your pledged giving, please contact him at mikah@highlandsumc.net or call the church office at 205-933-8751.

2019 Year-End Giving Guidelines

Please consider this important reminder regarding giving to Highlands. In order for contributions to be tax deductible for 2019, they must:

By mail: be postmarked on or before December 31.

Online: be completed by midnight (CST) December 31 at www.highlandsumc.net/giving.

Hand Delivered: be delivered to the church office no later than 4 PM on Tuesday, December 31 or placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 29.

If you would like to make a gift of stock to the church, we have accounts with Charles Schwab and Morgan Stanley. Please contact Tyra Pirtle in the church office (finance@highlandsumc.net or 933-8751 x103) and she will provide you with the church account number and transfer codes. Your contributions to the church are greatly appreciated!

Highlands United Methodist Church
office@highlandsumc.net
205-933-8751

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
@HighlandsUMC

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Closed for lunch 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Get email updates from Highlands!
Text HIGHLANDS to 84576

To include an announcement in *Happening At Highlands*, please submit information to the church office by Wednesday at noon.